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The Pullambadi Irrigation Scheme.

* 40 *Q.*—Sri P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the plans and estimates are ready for the scheme called "The Pullambadi Irrigation Scheme" in Tiruchirappalli district;

(*b*) what is the area which can be brought under cultivation under this scheme; and

(*c*) the approximate cost of the scheme?

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI:—"(*a*) Yes.

"(*b*) 22,000 acres.

"(*c*) Rs. 84·26 lakhs."

Sri P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM:—"May I know when the Government propose to take up the execution of the scheme?"

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI:—"I may inform the hon. Member that the scheme is not likely to be taken up for execution because the Chief Engineer has not recommended it for more reasons than one."

Sri P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM:—"May I know whether the Minister is aware that much costlier schemes have been taken up for execution by the Government?"

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI:—"Every scheme is properly scrutinized before a decision is arrived at regarding its execution."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI:—"May I know the reasons which the Chief Engineer has advanced for not taking up this scheme for execution?"

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI:—"This scheme involves the excavation of a canal about 54 miles in length, and for about 26 miles there are absolutely no proper facilities for digging the canal due to the thick layer of the earth. The Chief Engineer has said that the cost involved in the excavation of the canal would not be commensurate with the profit accruing out of the scheme."

Sri M. PALANIYANDI:—"குறைந்த செலவில் குறைந்த விஸ்தீரணமுள்ள நிலங்களையாவது சாகுபடி செய்வதற்கு வேறு திட்டம் ஏதாவது இருக்கிறதா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI:—"There is another scheme under investigation. The scheme has not yet been finalized. The estimates and plans will be ready by about the 1st August 1952."

Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY:—"May I know the amount that has been spent till now on this scheme?"

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THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" The scheme was investigated in the year 1948. Nothing more has been done."

SRI A. RAMASWAMY THEVAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether plans and estimates are ready for the scheme known as the 'Kattalai High Level Channel Extension Scheme' in the Tiruchirappalli district, and if so, when the scheme would be commenced?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" We are now dealing with the Pullambadi Scheme. The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI A. RAMASWAMY THEVAR :—" Myself being a new Member I would like to know the rules and regulations governing the procedure to be adopted during question time."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It has already been circulated to hon. Members."

SRI A. RAMASWAMY THEVAR :—" If that is so, I may be excused, Sir."

SRI P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM :—" Are the Government aware that the people of the locality came forward to help the Government to execute the scheme by giving loans when the Hon. Minister Sri Roche Victoria visited that place last?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I have no information to give the hon. Member."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" In view of the fact that the Government have stated that about 22,000 acres of land could be irrigated under this scheme, may I know whether it is the question of cost that is standing in the way of its execution? As a matter of fact several schemes costing more but irrigating less acreage have been taken up for execution."

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I do not really understand what the hon. Member means by saying whether it is the cost that counts most. As a matter of fact before implementing a scheme not only the cost but several other factors also are taken into consideration."

SRI P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM :—" Are the Government aware that in spite of the fact that the scheme was investigated as early as 1905 and fond hopes were given to the people, it was considered last only in 1948? Now the Government have come forward saying that it is not feasible to take it up for execution. Will the Government reconsider their decision in view of the fact that the people of that area are ready to give loans for the execution of the scheme?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Fond hopes have been entertained not only with regard to this scheme but with regard to many more schemes. In view of what the hon. Member has just now said, the question will be reconsidered."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know what is the cost of the scheme per acre? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" The whole scheme is to cost about Rs. 84·26 lakhs and it is expected to irrigate about 22,000 acres. The hon. Member can make his own mathematical calculations. I may also add that when the cost of the scheme is worked out, the extent of the poramboke lands that will be brought under irrigation is also being gone into. The return of the scheme was estimated to be only 1 per cent."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The Hon. Minister has stated that when a scheme is taken up several factors are taken into account. May I know whether the defect of the Government in the elections is also taken into consideration in this connexion? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" We have not yet come to that stage, Sir."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" In view of the fact that Tiruchirappalli is a deficit district, does not the Hon. Minister think that any scheme bringing additional lands under cultivation will increase food production? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Not only in Tiruchirappalli but everywhere we consider additional lands for cultivation very useful. But the question of finance stands in the way."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" But the people are prepared to finance the scheme."

SRI P. THIMMA REDDI :—" When the Government consider this scheme which is to cost about Rs. 84·26 lakhs for irrigating only 22,000 acres, will they consider also the Upper Pennar Project which is to irrigate more acreage but cost less and which was already brought to the notice of Mr. N. Sanjeeva Reddi when he visited Anantapur while he was a Minister? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" The Hon. Minister has asked us to have our own calculations regarding the cost per acre. Are we to apply the G.C.M. or the L.C.M. method? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" The hon. Member can apply any method which he thinks correct."

9 a.m. SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, with reference to the cost of the scheme may I ask the Hon. Minister whether during the Advisers' regime, this scheme was estimated to cost only Rs. 36 lakhs, why he now says that the cost is Rs. 82 lakhs and asks me to work out the cost per acre on that basis, and whether any further additions have been made to the plans and estimates since they were originally prepared during the Advisers' regime? "

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THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—" I have no information on that point; but I take the information from the hon. Member."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" Sir, the Hon. Ministers generally deny whatever we say and then add that they have no information. Will it be possible for you, Sir, and may I request you, to advise the Hon. Ministers to get information before they deny what we say here? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" How is the Speaker concerned with the method of answering questions? "

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" You are here to guide us, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—" The Speaker has nothing to do with the method of answering questions."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" You have also got the privilege of guiding both the Members and the Ministers."

Headquarters of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Villupuram.

* 41 *Q.*—SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether any representation was received from the Bar Association, Tindivanam, for shifting of the 'Sub-Divisional Magistrate Court', Villupuram to Tindivanam and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Yes. Government have examined the matter and do not consider any change is called for in the headquarters of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Villupuram."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN:—" Will the Government state whether they have received any representation from the Bar Association at Villupuram in regard to this matter? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR:—" No representation has been received by the Government from the Bar Association, Villupuram."

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER:—" May I know the recommendations made by the Commission in this behalf? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR:—" The Commission also advised the Government not to make any change in the present position."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN:—" May I know whether there is any proposal to shift the Sub-Divisional Magistrate's Court at Gingee? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR:—" A separate question may be put on that."